

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

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SUBJECT Port of Riga

DATE DISTR. 21 July 1955

NO. OF PAGES 6

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

50X1-HUM

DATE ACQUIRED

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. On Soviet Navy Day, 25 July 1954, between the new wooden bridge and the pontoon bridge in Riga (N 56-58, E 24-05), there were four large and 16 small submarines and also some fleet minesweepers. Large warships, which are believed to be cruisers, are often to be seen on the horizon of Riga Bay, carrying out firing exercises. They were observed from Lielupe (N 57-05, E 23-55) on occasions at the beginning of June 1954, and frequently toward the end of that month, and also in August 1954.

50X1-HUM

2. At Apsekalns Bay (N 56-57, E 25-05), there are always six or eight small warships, similar to those known as German "Schnellbooten". They are propelled by diesel engines, Sketch No. 1 page 3 is the appearance of an MO seen at Riga.

50X1-HUM

3. A "floating box", of which an impression is given in Sketch No. 2, always appears when there are big parades in Riga, arrivals of VIP's, etc. This vessel is metal, painted gray, and self-propelled, the propellers being at each side. The overall width of the vessel is approximately 20 meters, the width of the ramp is approximately ten meters, and it is approximately 80 meters long, not including the prow.
4. There always appear to be hulls only lying at old Milgravis yard (N 57-02, E 24-07), which are being fitted out.
5. On Siena Island (N 57-02, E 24-05), near the old navigation school, there is a new shipyard, with new buildings and new machinery. As seen from the river, it is upstream from the conspicuous landmark of the white church and the fish factory. There are at least two slips, with cranes, and also rails which run into the water. The MIKHAIL GOVOROV and the AKADEMIK PAVLOV were being repaired here in the spring of 1952.

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

-2-

6. Floating cranes are built at the former ZEP Works on Kliver Island. They are of about 30 tons each, and are fully revolving.
7. At Ronu Reach (N-56-58, E 24-05), the area marked 1 in sketch No. 3, page 4, is being filled in beyond the wall marked 2, and is already half-completed. At point 3, there is a large crane on shore, and also two or three floating cranes, which were made in Riga. A new branch railway line has been built into this yard, details of which are not available.
8. In 1946, a new wooden bridge was built across the Daugava at Gorkiy Street. (See sketch No. 4, page 4, on which this street is marked No. 1.) The pontoon bridge at point 2 on the sketch has been moved a short distance downstream. It carries streetcar buses, which must now follow the course shown as point 3. The former site of the pontoon bridge, shown as 4 in the sketch, is now to be used for a new bridge, which is to be 40 meters in width. Construction of the first piers has already begun. The railway bridge is marked 5.
9. On one occasion at the end of August 1954, [] the arrival of a large submarine near the Lielupe River. Soon after, twelve sailors in a dinghy came ashore. Six of the men put on special rubber overalls and masks, but it is not certain whether the overalls went on over ordinary clothes or not. They appeared to have special footwear but not flippers. They walked under water across the mouth of the Lielupe River. The dinghy accompanied them, and occasionally its bell was rung. The party returned, took off the rubber clothing, and the other party of six men repeated the procedure. The submarine remained offshore, awaiting the end of the exercise. (See sketch No. 5 on page 5.)
10. On one occasion between 10 and 15 September 1953, a similar underwater exercise was observed in the vicinity of a bridge over the Lacupe River. That time, the sailors came to the place, marked X in sketch No. 6 page 5, by land, and walked to the bridge and back.
11. There is a prohibited zone in Bolderaja (N 57-02, E 24-03). A sentry, military or possibly naval, is posted to stop all who try to pass from the residential area of Bolderaja to the prohibited area Bolderaja-Daugavgriva. Persons living in Bullu (N 57-01, E 23-59) must go to Bolderaja by boat, or cross the river and go via the other bank, as it is not permitted to go via the road from Bullu to Daugavgriva.
12. The new Naval Construction School (Vovenno-Morskoye Stroitelnoye Uchilishche) is located in a building opposite the Opera House.
13. The River Fleet School (Uchilishche Rechnogo Flota) is in the former Cirulu House on Kliver iela, near the pontoon bridge.

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1. [] Comment: An MO is a submarine chaser.
2. [] Comment: There may be two of these vessels.
3. [] Comment: This submarine was not as large as the "Z" class.

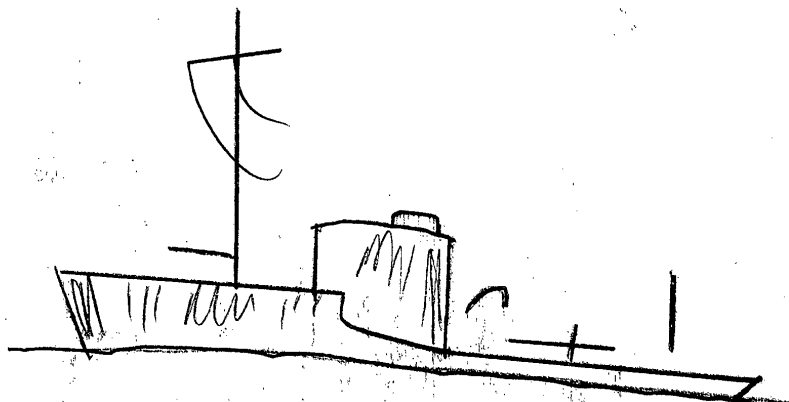
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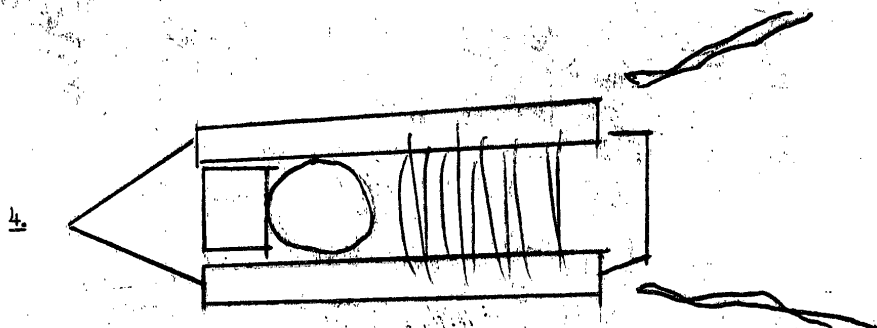
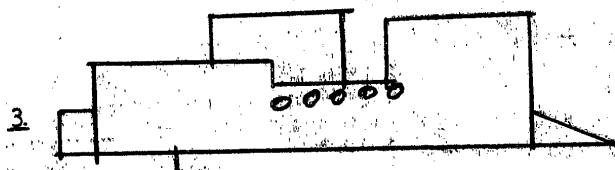
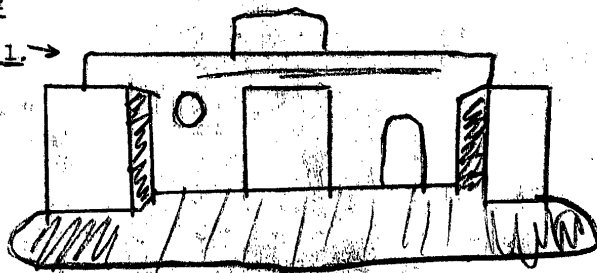
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-3-

50X1-HUM

Sketch No. 1: MO Type of VesselSketch No. 2: "Floating Box"Legend to Sketch No. 2

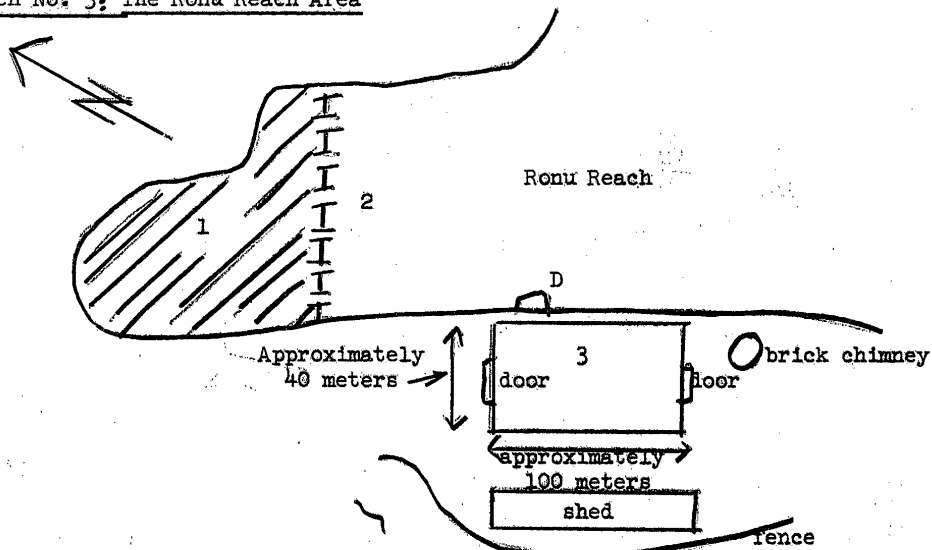
1. Looking forward
2. Structure of the ramp
3. Side view
4. View from above



S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

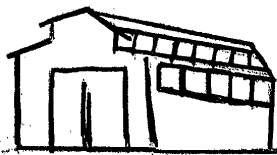
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Sketch No. 3: The Ronu Reach Area

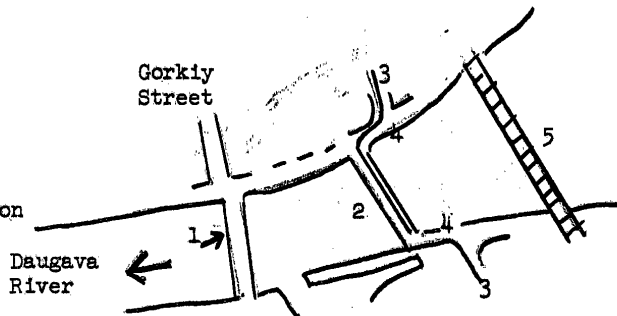
The wall marked 2 above, is built like this:



Following is an impression of the new building marked 3 above. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to observe whether this building also has doors opening onto the waterfront.

Sketch No. 4: Daugava River in the Vicinity of Gorkiy StreetLegend to Sketch No. 4

1. Gorkiy street
2. Pontoon bridge
3. Streetcar lines
4. Former site of pontoon bridge
5. Railway bridge



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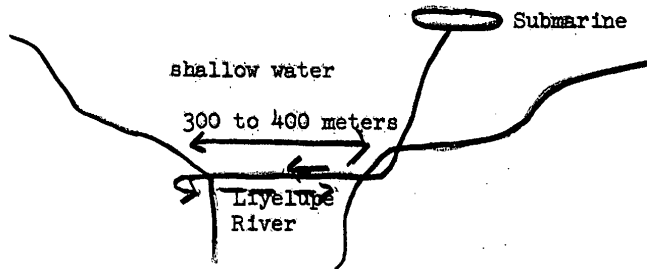
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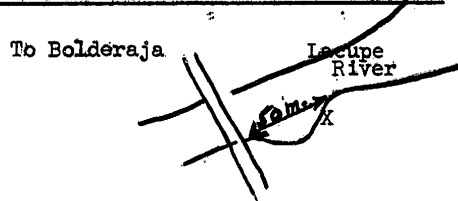
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-5-

Sketch No. 5: Liyelupe River Where Underwater Exercise Took Place



Sketch No. 6: Site of an Underwater Exercise



S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

-6-

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM